United Nations S/2001/571

Security Council

Distr.: General
7 June 2001

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 19 of Security Council resolution 1305 (2000) of 21 June 2000, by which the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH) for a further 12 months until 21 June 2001. It details the Mission's progress since my report of 30 November 2000 (S/2000/1137) and reviews activities conducted jointly by UNMIBH and other parts of the United Nations system in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

2. The Mission continues to be led by my Special Representative and Coordinator of United Nations Operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Jacques Paul Klein. The Mission's International Police Task Force (IPTF) is led by Commissioner Vincent Coeurderoy. As a result of the difficulties faced by police-contributing countries in meeting the requirements of all peacekeeping missions, the IPTF strength has remained below the authorized number of 2,057; the current strength is 1,798 (see annex).

II. Activities of the Mission

3. The Mission's internal mandate implementation plan is the comprehensive strategic framework (see S/2000/529, para. 34 and S/PV.4154 and Corr.1, p. 6) through which the Mission aims to complete its core mandate by 31 December 2002. The plan comprises six core programmes, corresponding to the sub-headings in this chapter, which incorporate 57 individual projects and sub-projects. Starting in January 2001, each UNMIBH department and region developed a six-month plan with specific timelines and benchmarks to implement the mandate implementation plan. Through this process, the Mission has achieved a new standard of unity of purpose and dynamism, and has established an efficient mechanism for internal resource management. As projects are completed, UNMIBH has redeployed its resources to other ongoing or new projects. The overall mandate completion target is predicated on maintaining the IPTF strength at 1,850 until July 2002, as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to the General Assembly (see A/55/874/Add.5).

Police reform

4. The core programme of police reform aims to ensure that all law enforcement personnel meet international standards of personal integrity and professional competence. The individual projects are designed to weed out police personnel who are war or economic criminals, or who occupy housing illegally, and to ensure that each police officer is adequately trained, including in human rights.

5. Registration of all police personnel (including prison staff employed by Ministries of Justice, court police, the State Border Service and local Interpol) was completed in May 2001. Of the 24,007 law enforcement personnel entered in the UNMIBH Law Enforcement Personnel Registry, over 9,300 have been granted provisional authorization to exercise police powers and have been issued UNMIBH identification cards. Some 1,600 personnel have been refused provisional authorization, in most cases because they have been identified as administrative personnel, while

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others lacked the necessary qualifications or had criminal records. Nineteen police officers had their authorization withdrawn ("de-authorized") for professional misconduct or for human rights violations. The remainder are still undergoing background checks. In the final phase of this programme, with the assistance of other organizations, UNMIBH will conduct detailed background checks on senior and mid-level police managers, and on officers whose preliminary background information warrants further investigation. This core programme will be completed in late 2002 when every law enforcement official will have been appropriately vetted prior to receiving UNMIBH final certification.

6. An estimated 40 per cent of all police officers are displaced persons living on someone else's property. Resolution of their housing status is one criterion for UNMIBH final certification, in accordance with the nationwide Property Legislation Implementation Plan. In the past year, 1,129 police personnel have regularized their housing status. Three police officers have been "de-authorized" for refusing to vacate illegal residences and nine illegally housed police stations have been moved. However, comprehensive remedies are particularly difficult to find as the low and irregular salaries received by the officers severely limit their ability to rent private accommodation. UNMIBH has repeatedly requested the Office of the High Representative to take measures to bring police salaries to a level that will enable police officers to rent private housing, and to insist that police personnel are given priority in the allocation of alternative municipal accommodation. Meanwhile, UNMIBH field staff have been helping police personnel, on a case-by-case basis, to repossess their own property, qualify for reconstruction assistance or find other legal accommodation.

7. UNMIBH police training programmes are nearing conclusion. Four of the five compulsory courses (human dignity, transitional training, traffic awareness and basic management) will be completed by July 2001. The community policing programme has been completed in 60 per cent of the Federation and 88 per cent of Republika Srpska. Specialized training of 3,023 local police in surveillance, intelligence, critical evidence response, vice and prostitution, forensics, auto crime, economic crime, advanced management training, and drug awareness has been concluded. Hazardous materials training is ongoing. The Federation and Republika Srpska Anti-Terrorist Units are fully trained and the 22 support units will complete training by June 2001. Tactical support unit training remains to be finished only in Republika Srpska and the Brčko District. Training and exercises to improve inter-entity police cooperation are ongoing.

8. UNMIBH has enhanced its capacity to monitor and, where necessary, sanction local police performance. In February 2001, the Mission issued a new policy comprising two mechanisms: (a) "performance reports", which record minor acts of inadequate performance that can be remedied through training or other supportive measures; and (b) "non-compliance reports", which record serious lapses of duty or violations of the law and oblige police officials to initiate internal disciplinary measures and to place the officer concerned under intensive IPTF scrutiny. Officers issued with more than one non-compliance report are automatically considered for de-authorization. All cases of previously issued non-compliance reports are being reviewed by the IPTF Commissioner with a view to taking action against those officers with a history of obstruction or violations.

9. The application of these mechanisms, together with timely action by the Office of the High Representative against police officials outside the purview of UNMIBH (such as Ministers and administrative staff), are essential tools to improve police performance. In February 2001, the Bratunac Police Chief and Chief Criminal Investigator were de-authorized and several police received non-compliance reports after repeated failures to respond adequately to serious crimes against Bosniac returnees. Following mob violence in Mostar and Grude during a search of the Herzegovacka Bank on 6 April, six police chiefs were de-authorized for signing a statement renouncing the authority of the Federation. The Minister of the Interior of Croatia and three senior administrative officials were ultimately also removed by the High Representative. Failure by the police to maintain public order during stone laying ceremonies for new mosques in Trebinje and Banja Luka in early May resulted in the removal of the Chief of the Public Security Centre of Trebinje and the issuance of a non-compliance report to the town's Chief of Crime Investigation. In Banja Luka, five police officers were suspended, the government accepted the resignations of the Minister of the Interior and the Chief of the Public Security

Centre and, regrettably, dismissed the dedicated Deputy Minister of the Interior, without whose intervention security arrangements would have been even more ineffective. UNMIBH is monitoring local police investigations to prepare for criminal prosecution of the perpetrators of the violence, particularly since serious charges are expected after the tragic death of one Bosniac as a result of injuries sustained during the violent demonstration in Banja Luka.

10. In all cases of mob violence, the need for well-trained and competently led police support units was evident. In the past eight months, UNMIBH has taken the lead in establishing and training these support units, but equipment and vehicles are required to make them effective and present at all locations. More generally, UNMIBH will use all means at its disposal, including assistance in the preparation of security plans and close monitoring of their implementation, supervision of the investigative follow-up of incidents and measures against non-cooperative police, to address ethnically-motivated and return-related crimes, which are expected to increase over the summer with the projected increase in minority returns.

11. The positive effects of proactive police work in sensitive circumstances was demonstrated in April in connection with the arbitration of the inter-entity boundary line in the Sarajevo suburb of Dobrinja. As a result of the arbitration, several apartment blocks inhabited by Bosnian Serbs, which since the end of the war had been part of Republika Srpska, were placed under the administration of the Federation. Thorough security planning by UNMIBH with the cantonal police on the Federation side and the concerned Public Security Centre in Republika Srpska, combined with close cooperation with the multinational stabilization force (SFOR), led to a smooth handover of responsibilities despite demonstrations by Bosnian Serbs and statements of strong dissatisfaction by leaders of Republika Srpska.

12. An objective assessment of police performance in the past six months would conclude that security planning and coordination has improved, as demonstrated during the sensitive Dobrinja arbitration award. However, investigation of incidents of return-related violence is still too often lethargic and inadequate, particularly in Eastern Republika Srpska, and operational capacity and political will are severely deficient when dealing with violent demonstrations, such as riots in Mostar, Banja Luka and Trebinje. In view of the likelihood of a "hot summer" resulting from the criminal actions of extremist elements opposed to increased minority returns and the reconstruction of historic religious sites, my Special Representative is engaging intensively with political, religious and community leaders and police officials to seek a substantial improvement in their mutual cooperation as an essential element in improving police performance.

13. However, there are three endemic problems that seriously impair police performance but are outside the mandate of UNMIBH. First, it is unreasonable to believe that a clean and effective police force can be established when the majority of police officers, especially in Republika Srpska, are paid an irregular wage that is not sufficient for daily life. Secondly, it is equally unrealistic to assume that under such conditions the officers will be able to resolve their housing status or that large numbers of minority police will be willing to redeploy across entity lines. Thirdly, when local police do perform their work efficiently, the lack of efficient and impartial judicial follow-up is a disincentive to police professionalism and the major reason why known ethnic extremists and criminals remain at large to commit repeat offences. All these problems are aggravated by the continuing political interference in professional police work.

14. Until these fundamental issues are addressed, local police will not be able to substitute for a continued robust international security presence mandated, staffed and equipped to maintain overall security and provide specific protection to international personnel and property. As the international community takes more robust actions against illegal parallel structures, organized crime and ethnic extremism, the requirement for security is likely to grow, rather than diminish. Recent attacks on international personnel, such as during the violent demonstrations in Banja Luka and Trebinje, have once again demonstrated that any review of the presence or mission of SFOR, and of the role of specialist forces such as the SFOR "multinational specialized units", must take full account of the security requirements of United Nations and other international personnel. The need for close coordination between all those involved in security-related matters, particularly SFOR and UNMIBH, whose tasks occupy different ends of the

same public security spectrum, is more important than ever.

Police restructuring

15. The aim of police restructuring is to rationalize the size, structure and resources of the police forces according to international standards and to ensure that their ethnic composition reflects that of the communities in which they serve. To address the organizational capacity of law enforcement institutions, a comprehensive IPTF co-location project entitled "Manage the Managers" was launched in February 2001. Under the project, in addition to co-locating with the crime departments, IPTF monitors are also being co-located in the legal, personnel, finance and budget departments, permitting, for example, a comparison of ministry payrolls with the Law Enforcement Registry, an evaluation of human resources and budget management, as well as the monitoring of internal disciplinary procedures. The project is under way in eight Federation cantons and is being extended to the public security centres in Republika Srpska. The success of the project will depend to a considerable extent on the quality and experience of IPTF staff.

16. The UNMIBH police commissioner project remains an essential institutional initiative for creating an apolitical police service, shielded from direct political interference from the ministries by functioning under a single chain of command led by an experienced police professional, designated "Police Commissioner" or "Director of Police". As a result of political interference and manipulation by political parties, the pilot project launched in Canton 9 (Sarajevo) had to be suspended in February 2001 pending revisions to the Law on Internal Affairs to depoliticize selection procedures. In three other cantons, necessary legislative amendments are being prepared. At the Federation level, strong representations to the Minister of the Interior by UNMIBH, with the support of the Office of the High Representative, resulted in the designation of a highly capable Bosnian Croat as the Interim Director of the Federation Ministry of the Interior on 20 March 2001. However, certain Bosniac political leaders, who reject the possibility of a Croat being Director of Police, have recently threatened IPTF personnel, including the Commissioner, and have sought to undermine and remove the Interim Director and his (also Bosnian-Croat) Deputy Minister, who have made considerable strides in reintegrating Bosniac and Croat officers and reorganizing the Ministry. UNMIBH deems this form of political interference and attempted intimidation totally unacceptable and has urged the Minister of the Interior not to give in to the pressure while UNMIBH redoubles its efforts to complete the police commissioner projects. In Republika Srpska, regrettably, despite several promises by the authorities, including the Prime Minister, no progress has been made in establishing a Director of Police in that entity. The UNMIBH policy of removing the Federation's intelligence services from police premises is yielding positive results, with completion having already been achieved in five cantons. It is anticipated that the policy will have been fully implemented in the remaining cantons by July 2001.

17. The proportion of minorities in local police forces remains unacceptably low: 5.7 per cent of a targeted 28 per cent in the Federation and 2.2 per cent of a targeted 20 per cent in Republika Srpska. Representation of females of all ethnicities is also unacceptably low, with an average of 3 per cent in both entities, compared to the European standard of 10 per cent. Although there is no shortage of potential candidates for minority police positions, the key disincentives are low police salaries, particularly in Republika Srpska, lack of prioritization for housing assistance and political obstruction in some areas. Additional donor assistance is urgently required to meet the agreed minority representation targets.

18. Almost all minority officers are in place owing to the efforts of the Mission's minority recruitment projects, comprising cadet entry through the two police academies, voluntary redeployment of serving officers across entity lines and retraining of officers from the pre-war service willing to return to an area where they now belong to an ethnic minority. Since the initiation of the projects in 1999, the police academies have graduated or currently enrol over 830 minority cadets. The first four rounds of the Mission's voluntary redeployment programme have resulted in the transfer of 54 minority police officers. Thirty-four members of minorities have completed refresher classes for former police officers. Another course is currently in progress, with 14 minority officers in training in Banja Luka. Interest in this training remains very high. In 2001, the goal is to recruit between 700 and 750 minority police officers through all the above-mentioned programmes. Capacity to train larger numbers of minority officers

will increase once the reconstruction of the two academies has been completed, later in 2001.

Cooperation between the police and the criminal justice system

19. Until there are effective and professional judicial institutions, police reform will remain an incomplete endeavour. On 1 December 2000, the UNMIBH judicial system assessment programme was dissolved and its functions were subsumed into the Independent Judicial Commission established within the Office of the High Representative, which has been given the mandate for judicial reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina. UNMIBH retained a small Criminal Justice Advisory Unit that has good cooperation with the Independent Judicial Commission through the provision of information on the suitability of sitting judges and prosecutors, and in planning police training to implement the upcoming reform of the Criminal Procedure Code.

20. The primary task of the Criminal Justice Advisory Unit is to support IPTF by advising on criminal procedure and the criminal justice process, advising on the structure and functioning of the judiciary, acting as liaison between IPTF and judicial officials and the courts and encouraging cooperation between the police, prosecutors and the courts. One major project has as its goal the improvement of the quality of police crime reports by using selected prosecutors to train key local police officers, under the guiding principle that a police force that conducts proper investigations and submits professional crime reports to the judiciary encourages transparency, thus shifting the pressure to judges and prosecutors who have tended to delay or undermine sensitive cases and thwart the rule of law. The project has been enthusiastically welcomed by authorities in Republika Srpska and in several cantons. In order to diminish the further proliferation of violent acts, it is essential to create a positive synergy between the work of the local police and local courts. In areas of Eastern Republika Srpska, where the rate of unresolved return-related incidents is high, special importance is attached to generating good cooperation between local law enforcement and local judiciary bodies.

21. Progress is at last being made, albeit slowly, in the establishment of a court police service as a multi-ethnic Federation police force. Court police are successfully operating in the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court and in three cantons, where their presence has already contributed to increased evictions of illegal occupants. In addition, in Canton 7 (Herzegovina-Neretva), the recruitment and selection process has started, and in the Brcko District plans are under way to assign court police duties to local police. A similar solution is being sought in Republika Srpska, where there are no legal provisions for a separate court police and where such a programme would be an additional financial burden on an already financially strapped government. Included in the development of the court police project are mechanisms for the protection of judges and witnesses and evidence in high profile cases. These are important safeguards, especially as police operations and trials against organized crime and corruption continue to be carried out successfully and domestic courts have begun to try war crimes cases, as in Mostar.

State Border Service and inter-police force cooperation

22. The State Border Service has made appreciable progress towards becoming a viable multi-ethnic State-level law enforcement institution that underscores State sovereignty and identity, reduces illegal migration and trafficking, and contributes to enhanced revenue collection through anti-smuggling measures. From an initial level of 376 personnel deployed at four border crossings in 2000, the Service comprises over 1,180 personnel (39 per cent Bosniacs, 31 per cent Serbs, 30 per cent Croats; of whom 8 per cent are females) deployed across 62 per cent of the 1,666-kilometre border. In April 2001, job advertisements were placed to bring the first-phase units up to strength and to recruit additional units for deployment by July.

23. In early 2001, the funding gap to implement the State Border Service deployment plan for the year was some KM 46 million (approximately US$ 23 million). To bridge this gap, UNMIBH secured the agreement of the Office of the High Representative to re-balance the State budget to provide an additional KM 10 million (approximately US$ 5 million) for the Service. In cooperation with the Directors of the Service, UNMIBH reviewed and reduced the personnel

requirements, salaries and allowances of the Service, resulting in a saving of KM 10 million (approximately $5 million) per year. Successful representations were made to bilateral and regional donors, including Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and the European Commission, which generously agreed to provide training, equipment and budgetary support. The recently announced initiative of the European Union to help Bosnia and Herzegovina combat illegal migration by the provision of technical experts is also welcome.

24. Units of the Border Service are increasingly arresting smugglers and confiscating contraband, including drugs and cigarettes, but their full effectiveness is hindered by a lack of material resources. For example, the unit in Trebinje (where over 90 per cent of illegal truck seizures took place in 2000) has 190 kilometres of border to control with 110 officers, but only has three vehicles and six radios, while pistols have to be shared. If the Border Service is to be effective in protecting state borders, combating illegal migration, smuggling and organized crime, and the well-armed perpetrators of such criminal activities, additional support is required, particularly for salaries and equipment. The deficit for 2001 now stands at KM 5.4 million (approximately $2.7 million) for salaries and operating costs and KM 6 million (approximately $3 million) for equipment. For 2002, the deficit is expected to be about KM 35 million (approximately $17.5 million).

25. The establishment of the State Border Service has highlighted the seriousness of illegal migration to European destinations. During 2000, according to updated figures, of the 35,159 nationals who arrived at the Sarajevo and Tuzla airports from 12 specifically identified foreign countries, only 6,603 departed, thus leaving 28,556 persons (26,783 of them from two countries alone) unaccounted for. These figures do not include illegal land entries or the 5,361 attempted illegal entrants returned by Croatia to Bosnia and Herzegovina; it is estimated that the figures in fact represent only about half of the actual total. This year some progress has been made. The introduction of a visa regime for Iranian passport holders had an immediate impact on the scale of the problem, raising the possibility that the figures for 2001 could be half those for 2000. Nonetheless, large numbers of illegal migrants continue to enter. As of 24 May 2001, some 6,754 people (5,826 from one specific State only), including those readmitted from Croatia, were unaccounted for. Consideration should be given to further initiatives, including additional visa regimes, the introduction of a landing card and the adoption of necessary by-laws.

26. Major strides have been made in fostering cooperation between the different police forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina and on a regional level. In March 2001, under the auspices of the UNMIBH-chaired Ministerial Consultative Meeting on Police Matters (MCMPM), all domestic police organizations (State Border Service, Republika Srpska and Federation Ministries of the Interior, Cantonal Ministries of the Interior and the District of Brčko Police Services) signed a Cooperative Law Enforcement Arrangement for a Border Police Academy in Suhodol, outside Sarajevo. Operations at Suhodol have now begun (see also para. 40).

27. Consistent with the aims of Working Table III of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, UNMIBH concluded, through MCMPM, a regional Cooperative Law Enforcement Arrangement Combating Illegal Migration and Organized Crime, which provides for regular meetings of a Committee of Ministers of the Interior and a Regional Task Force. On 14 May 2001, a document formalizing the Arrangement was signed by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Republic of Croatia, the Bosnia and Herzegovina entities and the Director of the State Border Service. Hungary has indicated its interest to join the Arrangement. The Ministry of Interior of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has also requested UNMIBH to facilitate its use of the State Border Service training centre for its own anticipated new Border Service. In June, the offices of the Bosnia and Herzegovina National Central Bureau of Interpol will be opened in Sarajevo. This modernized facility will considerably strengthen local capacity to combat international crime.

28. These arrangements are intended to assist coordination in the fight against cross-border trafficking and organized crime. Working through the UNMIBH Joint Entity Task Force, UNMIBH has been able to increase the frequency of police activities to uncover victims of trafficking, such as "Operation Makro", carried out in March 2001, in which over 530 police officers raided 39 brothels and bars throughout the country. Operation Makro as well as others in 2001,

have succeeded in identifying 78 victims of human trafficking. They have been repatriated with the assistance of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Local authorities have been generally reluctant to prosecute bar owners and traffickers. No such cases have yet been successfully prosecuted anywhere in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Police and public awareness

29. The public awareness campaign on rights and obligations of police and citizens is ongoing and will run throughout 2001-2002. The "Your Police-Serving You" campaign, launched nationwide on 26 March 2001 is helping to increase public awareness of the fundamental principles of democratic policing, such as protection, accountability and non-discrimination, focusing on areas where the police come most frequently into contact with the public, including traffic, domestic violence, return and detention situations. Each police organization has been encouraged to develop its own public relations programme. The majority of local police stations now hold "open house" days where members of the public, particularly schoolchildren, visit and tour stations with police officers. In early June 2001 a further multi-ethnic police recruitment campaign was launched, this time aimed at increasing the per cent age of female applicants to the police academies.

Participation in United Nations peacekeeping operations

30. Members of the Bosnia and Herzegovina police contingent are serving with distinction with the United Nations Transitional Assistance Administration in East Timor (UNTAET). It will be recalled that UNMIBH has been instrumental in developing the peacekeeping capability of the police forces. The Foreign Ministry of Bosnia and Herzegovina has recently created a working group to further develop local competence to handle all necessary logistics and administrative support to the country's national contingents participating in peacekeeping missions.

31. The deployment of nine military observers from Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) is ongoing. The military observers will be trained on a bilateral basis by Poland and Austria, as well as in-country by the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations Training Unit. Discussions on a possible multi-ethnic company-sized light transport composite unit for United Nations peacekeeping operations continue to be stalled mainly because of objections by Republika Srpska at the military level. Nonetheless, in cooperation with SFOR, UNMIBH is identifying possible in-country training facilities for such a unit.

III. Joint activities of the United Nations system

32. According to the results of a re-registration exercise supported by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and carried out throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina at the end of 2000, a total of 518,252 persons have registered and applied for displaced person status in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Of these, 231,732 have applied in Republika Srpska, 263,375 in the Federation and 23,145 in the Brčko District. Compared with the numbers of displaced persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1996 (when approximately 845,000 were registered), the current figures indicate that significant progress has been made with regard to returns, increasingly so during recent months.

33. That the return of displaced persons and refugees has continued in significant numbers is testament to the improved security conditions and decreased political resistance. UNHCR registered 22,296 minority returns during the first four months of 2001, which represents an increase of almost 100 per cent over the same period in 2000. The fact that 25 per cent of the 254,333 individual property claims have been resolved and 50 per cent have been decided upon represents an important benchmark in the implementation of the property legislation. As repossessions of pre-war homes and returns to these homes take place, however, it is becoming increasingly apparent that many of the conditions necessary for sustaining such returns have not been met, including issues connected with education, employment, provision of social services and the free practice of religion.

34. Monitoring the work of local police during evictions of illegal occupants and taking measures to prevent disgruntled evictees from looting the properties they leave remain important contributions by UNMIBH

to the returns process. During the reporting period, no evictions have been cancelled owing to inaction by the local police, and police performance during evictions has been relatively good.

35. The newly created Mine Action Coordination Centre (MACC), operated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Office of the High Representative, provides crucial coordination and oversight for all demining activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. However, there is a dire need for increased donor support so that the Centre may continue to function throughout the current demining season. Recent pledges from Canada, Sweden and the United States to the UNDP Trust Fund, which finances the Centre, will ensure continuous operations until August, but resources are needed urgently through the end of the year. The long-term intention is to accelerate the transfer of financial responsibility to the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, but in the interim donor support will remain crucial.

36. The United Nations development agencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina, together with UNHCR, the World Bank and IOM, with inputs from UNMIBH, have prepared a common country study outlining the recovery and development challenges confronting the country. The study forms the basis for internal discussions on more effective ways of ensuring impact of the involved agencies and enhancing dialogue with national and international counterparts on development challenges and the need for broader national development strategies.

37. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has completed its work on the harmonization of the literature curricula in schools to ensure that all children have access to their rich common literary heritage. In the area of cultural heritage, UNESCO will shortly begin the restoration of the "Crooked Bridge" and other historical facilities in Mostar and hold a training course in stone restoration. In May 2001, following the violent demonstration in connection with the laying of cornerstones for mosques in Banja Luka and Trebinje, the three members of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina wrote to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General requesting the increased involvement of the United Nations, and of UNESCO in particular, in dialogue and cooperation between religious communities related to the reconstruction of religious, historical and cultural sites.

38. The UNAIDS Theme Group, comprising the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNESCO, UNDP, the World Health Organization, the World Bank and international non-governmental organizations, has been reconstituted. Working and technical groups are being created in cooperation with local authorities and the recently appointed coordinators of the HIV/AIDS entity. As a part of the Young People's Health and Development initiative, UNICEF has supported the work of local non-governmental organizations working on HIV/AIDS prevention covering about 100,000 children. A plan of action being prepared by UNICEF will include the active involvement of the youth networks in Bosnia and Herzegovina. UNICEF has also supported the Ministry for Human Rights in finalizing the initial report of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the treaty body of the Convention, the first such report by the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina in response to international human rights treaties. In preparation for the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on children in September 2001, UNICEF has reached an agreement with the entity governments for the creation of a State plan of action for children for the coming decade.

39. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has continued to provide input to the human rights training of IPTF monitors although the training itself is now conducted on site. OHCHR continues to liaise with the human rights department and the Joint Task Force of UNMIBH, particularly in relation to the trafficking of persons and domestic violence.

IV. Trust funds

40. The Trust Fund for the Restoration of Essential Public Services in Sarajevo, which was established in 1994, has received contributions totalling $20.8 million. In addition interest income of $3.1 million has been utilized to finance projects. From an aggregate income of $23.9 million, projects totalling approximately $22.5 million have been implemented or approved for implementation in the fields of energy, water, sanitation, communications, public transport, health and education, leaving a balance of $1.4 million. Recently approved projects include several for particularly devastated regions outside of Sarajevo, primarily to restore war-damaged infrastructure such as

schools, hospitals, roads and electrical generation and street lighting, water supply and sewerage systems by the end of 2002. The total cost of these projects is estimated at $2.8 million. Of this amount, the Srebrenica area, to the rehabilitation and regeneration of which the international community has attached particularly high priority through the development of an action plan, has benefited from the largest allocation of $1.6 million. Funds are directed to the repair of schools, hospitals, roads electrical networks and street lighting. The Police Trust Fund is also supporting the recently begun construction of one of two model police stations in Srebrenica. In addition, a Border Police Academy is under construction in Suhodol and classes have already started in one section of the building (see also para. 26).

41. The Trust Fund for the Police Assistance Programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina currently has a balance of approximately $1 million, which is sufficient to provide only a minimal amount of essential equipment to a few local police stations and the State Border Service. This is despite recent contributions from the Governments of the United States ($1.9 million), the Netherlands ($1 million) and Italy ($155,000), which were used to meet the urgent needs of the Border Service. To complete critical elements in the IPTF police programme and the local police assistance programme, in particular the strengthening of the State Border Service, it is estimated that contributions of $47 million are required. In addressing this funding shortfall, UNMIBH representatives have been active in soliciting contributions. My Special Representative is deeply concerned that the lack of funding will affect critical areas of the work of UNMIBH and prevent the Mission to achieve its targets by the end of 2002.

V. Financial aspects

42. In my report on the financing of UNMIBH (A/55/752), which is currently before the General Assembly, the budget for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 amounts to $143.5 million. In its related report (A/55/874/Add.5), the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions proposed an appropriation of $140 million. Therefore, should the Security Council extend the mandate of UNMIBH for a further 12-month period, as recommended in paragraph 53 below, the cost of the extension would be limited to that amount.

43. As at 15 May 2001, unpaid assessed contributions to the special account for UNMIBH amounted to $69.8 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations at the same date amounted to $2,415 million.

VI. Observations

44. In a war-torn region whose stabilization and recovery depends on resolving the challenges of ethnic reconciliation, democratic institution-building, reconstruction and economic reform as well as the full implementation of human rights for all citizens, Bosnia and Herzegovina is a vital test case. If peace implementation fails there after nearly six years of intensive international effort, the consequences throughout the region and possibly beyond will be profoundly adverse and even dangerous. The international community cannot afford to lessen its resolve or its commitment to Bosnia and Herzegovina; the consequences for the people of the region and for international peace and security could be incalculable.

45. A fundamental source of instability in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region as a whole is the belief among some that State borders and democratic institutions can and will be changed if sufficient obstruction and violence can be mustered to weaken international determination and presence. Would-be partitionists need to understand that the global trend is towards larger, not smaller, economic and political spaces, in which citizens' and group rights are guaranteed and protected through democratic institutions and the rule of law, not through ethnic cleansing or marginalization, or the creation of non-viable para-States. The path to a better future is through cooperation and compromise, not through sectarianism and separation.

46. Recent political changes are beginning to have a positive impact. The new democratic Governments in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in the Republic of Croatia and in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia have each pledged, and begun to act upon, commitments to constructive bilateral and regional relations based on mutual respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each State. These developments are to be welcomed and encouraged as a baseline investment in

the stability and recovery of the region. But other measures are essential, including renouncing and ceasing political and other support to ultra-nationalist groups, and taking robust measures to combat cross-border smuggling, organized crime and money laundering. The trilateral arrangement on combating illegal migration and organized crime, brokered by UNMIBH, and the establishment of an Interpol office are positive steps in this regard.

47. Within Bosnia and Herzegovina, while nationalist fires may not be fully extinguished, the fundamental desire of individual citizens to build a better future, inside Europe, is undeniable. In recent months, progress to this end has been obstructed, violently in some instances, by attempts to establish a Croat "self-government" in parts of Herzegovina, regardless of the wishes of the majority of the citizens and of the existence of substantial Croat communities with different political views both there and in other parts of the country. The people of Bosnia and Herzegovina should engage fully in constructing their society together and not repeat the tragedy of the past by again following ultra-nationalist leaders into an historical cul-de-sac.

48. Clearly, the legitimate political, legal and cultural rights of all citizens must be guaranteed. It should be recalled that the Dayton Accords not only ended the war but also established a constitutional framework for the peaceful and democratic resolution of disputes. It is regrettable that decisions of the Constitutional Court on the equality of citizens throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina have not yet been implemented and agreement has not been reached on a permanent Law on Elections. Progress in these areas is an essential step towards developing a national political consensus and joining European institutions. I urge all those concerned to assist in speeding up these vital processes.

49. Despite the difficult political environment, UNMIBH continues to make measurable progress in the implementation of its mission to assist the parties in establishing the foundations for effective, democratic, multi-ethnic and sustainable law enforcement agencies. Strong proactive measures by UNMIBH were successful in minimizing the negative impact of Croat "self rule" on police structures. Cases of individual police misconduct or other unsatisfactory performance are being identified and addressed. In some areas, such as the establishment of the State Border Service and the development of domestic and external police cooperation, progress has been very rapid. In other areas, including police vetting, minority recruitment and the court police, progress is being made incrementally through highly resource-intensive projects. But there remain essential areas, such as the police commissioner project, where the mission has faced serious political obstruction.

50. The continued presence of indicted war criminals in Bosnia and Herzegovina impedes the speed of peace implementation by undermining the establishment of the rule of law, inhibiting inter-ethnic reconciliation, preventing families of the victims from reaching psychological closure and holding back the political future of the country. As long as war criminals remain above the law, citizens do not have confidence in the political neutrality and professionalism of the local police and judiciary. I call on the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina and on neighbouring States, as well as all others concerned, to cooperate fully with the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. The apprehension of indicted war criminals by SFOR deserves strong support.

51. I welcome the steps taken by the international community to begin to help the people of Srebrenica overcome their tragic past and to enable displaced Serbs living there to return to their homes. UNMIBH played a catalytic role in the development of the Srebrenica Action Plan, which is a comprehensive blueprint for addressing the many problems of the area. The agreement of donors to release $1.6 million from the United Nations Sarajevo Trust Fund to essential infrastructure projects in Srebrenica is a tangible contribution to the improvement of the area. I also welcome the progress in implementation of the High Representative's decision to establish a permanent burial site at Potocari for the victims of the 1995 massacre. Over the coming months, the financial needs for these two initiatives will be substantial. I urge the international community to contribute generously.

52. Establishment of the rule of law is a fundamental precondition for self-sustaining peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The role of UNMIBH in police reform and restructuring is key to that endeavour. Within the confines of its mandate, the Mission continues to make measurable progress towards its goal of completing the core mandate by December 2002. Meeting this target depends on the provision by international donors of the necessary financial resources to complete the

establishment of the State Border Service, to provide a basic level of equipment to the police forces and to assist minority police in housing reconstruction. I appeal to Member States to contribute generously to the priority projects of UNMIBH and to the Trust Fund for the Police Assistance Programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

53. Recent events in Bosnia and Herzegovina have amply demonstrated the importance of the role the international community plays and will continue to play in the country. Increasing the efficiency and cohesion of the efforts of various international actors on the ground, especially in the forthcoming period when many new priorities and challenges will emerge, including in the broader region of the former Yugoslavia, is an essential precondition for the success of our common endeavour. I welcome the current informal discussions on how to further increase this efficiency while enhancing coordination and interaction between various international agencies on the basis of their respective mandates and legitimacy. In view of the progress achieved so far by UNMIBH and its planning for implementing its core tasks by December 2002, I recommend to the Security Council an extension of the current mandate of UNMIBH at an authorized strength of 1,850 police officers for a further 12-month period.

54. In conclusion, I should like to express my gratitude to the women and men of UNMIBH for their persistent dedication to the promotion of peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The energetic leadership of my Special Representative, Mr. Jacques Paul Klein, and of the IPTF Commissioner, General Vincent Coeurderoy, provide the inspiration for this important United Nations mission and is much appreciated.

Annex

Composition of the International Police Task Force as at 31 May 2001

Argentina	20
Austria	39
Bangladesh	25
Bulgaria	44
Canada	14
China	5
Chile	6
Czech Republic	6
Denmark	30
Egypt	48
Estonia	1
Fiji	15
Finland	11
France	104
Germany	154
Ghana	130
Greece	11
Hungary	13
Iceland	4
India	102
Indonesia	28
Ireland	34
Italy	21
Jordan	159
Kenya	7
Malaysia	42
Nepal	18
Netherlands	55
Norway	15
Pakistan	135
Poland	50
Portugal	40
Romania	18
Russian Federation	30
Senegal	11
Spain	2
Sweden	29
Switzerland	11
Thailand	5
Tunisia	2
Turkey	30
Ukraine	37
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	79
United States of America	148
Vanuatu	10
Total	**1 798**